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Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Action Plan Precautionary Approaches Guidance Development Update

Draft Work Plan

April 16, 2007

- I. Lead Cal/EPA Board, Department or Office (BDO):** California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)
- II. Background:** The CIWMB is the lead BDO for the development of Cal/EPA's Precautionary Approaches Guidance. In this effort, the CIWMB has four remaining objectives outlined in the EJ Action Plan to be completed, which are as follows:
- Inventory where/how precautionary approaches are used in Cal/EPA's environmental programs, and obstacles to limit precautionary actions.
 - Evaluate whether additional precaution may be warranted in Cal/EPA's environmental programs to address or prevent environmental justice problems.
 - Identify reasonable, cost-effective approaches that could be used to prevent or minimize adverse environmental impacts.
 - Develop guidance on precautionary approaches and recommend implementation options, including proposals for policy, regulatory, and statutory changes.
- III. Scope of Work to Be Performed:** On behalf of Cal/EPA, the CIWMB as the lead BDO will achieve the remaining objectives. The CIWMB will:
- Establish and convene a Precautionary Approaches (PA) Work Group.
 - Inventory where/how precautionary approaches are used in Cal/EPA's environmental programs, and obstacles to limit precautionary actions.
 - Evaluate whether additional precaution may be warranted in Cal/EPA's environmental programs to address or prevent environmental justice problems.
 - Identify reasonable, cost-effective approaches that could be used to prevent or minimize adverse environmental impacts.
 - Develop guidance on precautionary approaches and recommend implementation options, including proposals for policy, regulatory, and statutory changes.

In doing this work, the CIWMB will take into account precautionary approaches information learned from the pilot projects that are currently being conducted by other BDOs pursuant to the Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Action Plan.

IV. Tasks Identified:

Task 1. Precautionary Approaches (PA) Work Group

The CIWMB will recruit and form a PA Work Group of stakeholders with representatives from regulatory agencies, environmental organizations, community groups, industry and agriculture – with some members from the California Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice (CEJAC). The PA Work Group will advise Cal/EPA and the CIWMB regarding the work under this work plan. The advice and suggestions that the PA Work Group provides will be considered and analyzed within the parameters of this project’s approved working definition of “precautionary approaches.”

The PA Work group will meet at suitable locations in California during the 2007/2008 fiscal year. PA Work Group members will be reimbursed for travel expenses, but will not otherwise be compensated for participation in the group’s activities.

Expected Outcomes:

- Recruit and develop a PA Work Group of stakeholders with representatives from regulatory agencies, environmental organizations, community groups, industry and agriculture – with some members from CEJAC.
- Facilitate all preparations and make a written record of PA Work Group meetings. The PA Work Group will meet as often as needed, as determined by Cal/EPA and the CIWMB, throughout the entire project.

Task 2. Draft Precautionary Approaches Guidance and Draft Recommendations regarding Implementation Options

The CIWMB will develop draft PA guidance and draft recommendations regarding implementation options, including proposals for policy, regulatory and statutory changes, based in part on: 1) its inventory under the Cal/EPA EJ Action Plan of where/how precautionary approaches are used in Cal/EPA’s environmental programs and obstacles to limit precautionary actions; and 2) its evaluation under the Cal/EPA EJ Action Plan of whether additional precaution may be warranted in Cal/EPA’s environmental programs to address or prevent environmental justice problems. The CIWMB will develop the draft guidance and draft recommendations in consideration of early and subsequent input from the BDOs and the PA Work Group. The draft guidance will consist of reasonable, cost-effective approaches that could be used to prevent or minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Expected Outcomes:

- Draft PA Guidance.
- Draft recommended implementation options, including proposals for policy, regulatory and statutory changes.

Task 3. Public Workshops

The CIWMB will conduct at least two public workshops on the draft PA Guidance and draft recommendations regarding implementation options. The primary objective of the workshops will be to receive public input on the draft PA Guidance and draft recommended implementation options. There will also be at least one written comment period to allow members of the public to submit written comments regarding the draft PA Guidance and/or draft implementation options.

Expected Outcomes:

- Organize and conduct at least two (2) public workshops with one workshop to be held in Northern California and one workshop to be held in Southern California.
- Prepare detailed workshop agendas, presentations, and handouts.

Task 4. Draft-Final Precautionary Approaches Guidance and Recommendations regarding Implementation Options

Upon conclusion of the workshops and comment period on the draft PA guidance and the draft recommendations regarding implementation options, the CIWMB will prepare draft-final versions of the documents and submit them to the Secretary for Environmental Protection for action.

Expected Outcomes:

- Submit Draft-Final PA Guidance for Cal/EPA environmental programs to the Secretary for Environmental Protection for action.
- Submit Draft-Final recommendations regarding implementation options, including proposals for policy, regulatory and statutory changes, to the Secretary for Environmental Protection for Action.

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V. Preliminary Task Timeline: Following is a preliminary draft timeline for this work plan.

TASK(S)	DELIVERABLE	DEADLINE
One	Form and Convene the PA Work Group	August 1, 2007
Two	Draft PA Guidance and Draft Recommendations regarding Implementation Options	March 1, 2008
Three	PA Work Group Meetings and Public Workshops	November 2007 through June 2008
Four	Prepare Draft-Final PA Guidance and Recommendations regarding Implementation Options and Submit Them to the Secretary for Environmental Protection for Action	December 1, 2008